Shri Syed Sahid Ali was holding the charge temporarily, he was not competent to exercise power under section 54 of the Wakf Act.

Payment of Monthly Scholarship to SC/ST Students

*597. SHRI R. MARGABANDU : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether her Ministry has received any complaint during the last finacial year regarding non-payment of monthly scholarship to the SC and ST students in time; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last financial year, this Ministry received represention from individuals and organisations regarding non-payment/delay in payment of scholarship under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Central assistance under the Scheme is only given to the States and UTs for disbursal of admissible scholarship to the beneficiaries. It is the responsibility of the States and UTs to ensure that all the eligible beneficiaries are released payments in time and without delay. Complaints received by the Ministry were referred to the concerned States/UTs for appropriate action.

Import of Consumer Goods

*598. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the consumer products like eggs, apple, atta, etc. are being imported in huge quantity these days;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for increase in import of consumer products;

(c) if not, what is the real picture of Indian consumer market today;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Indian domestic producers of consumer goods have started facing severe constraints due to cheap import of consumer products; and

(e) if so, how Government propose to protect the interest of domestic producers?